

BRAILLE AND A DOG HELP JOE  
IN HIS CAREER

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**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY  
AMERICAN PRINTING  
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**

sent the Department of  
Gen. General, U. S. N.,

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*ec. 31, 1936*

Washington, D. C.  
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*ec. 31, 1938*

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*OFFICERS*

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these touring organization suffered a serious loss of business and so cut down not only on posters but on their free distribution. That is why War Service called on the the Junior Red Cross to help find substitutes for these posters.

Last November some thirty Chapters of the Eastern Area were asked to present this Junior project to the art instructors of high schools. The young artists were given until March 17th to send in their work, which consists mostly of posters, with some murals and mural hangings.

The great majority of these contributions did high credit to the artistic talent and technical skill of the high school boys and girls who made them.

After being exhibited in the Red Cross museum at National Headquarters, these art contributions will be distributed among the hospitals where veterans are now under treatment.

## James Lewis Fieser, Jr.

On April 9th, Vice Chairman James L. Fieser was overwhelmed with congratulations upon the arrival of a son, who will be known as James Lewis Fieser, Jr. Mrs. Fieser is the former Mary Elizabeth Bailey, widely known to the Red Cross personnel as a disaster worker and as executive secretary of the Evansville, Indiana, Chapter. Mother and son are in the Georgetown Hospital, but return to their home in Edgemoor, Washington, D. C., on May 1st.

### "One of the Real Necessities of Life"

In his regular Sunday afternoon broadcast on March 22nd, Strickland Gillilan, the well-known radio news commentator, said: "The Red Cross again demonstrates that it is one of the real necessities of life. So don't feel badly about that dollar you gave five years ago. Give it another."



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## Braille and a Dog Help Joe in His Career

This is the story of Joseph Melillo of Newark, New Jersey, and his "Seeing Eye" dog, "Bonzo."

Seven years ago, Joe, while romping with a group of boys, was struck in the eye with a stick. Infection set in, and gradually loss of sight followed. For several months, he was completely discouraged. Then he began to attend the Robert Treat School where blind boys and girls receive special training. In less than three months he had mastered Braille and, after one year in the Robert Treat Junior High School, was prepared to enter the Barringer High School. That was in 1932. In January, 1935, a member of the National Honor Society, the French Honor Society and the Latin Club, he was graduated with the highest honors and presented with several prizes, including *Good Bye, Mr. Chips* in Braille Grade II from the Braille Committee of the Newark Red Cross Chapter.

The following letter in Braille, sent as a Christmas message to Joe, is significant of his standing among his teachers and fellow students:

*My dear Joseph:* During this term you have given to me and to your class much more than you can realize. Your cheerfulness has lighted up the recitations. Your scholarship has set a standard that stimulates both pupils and teacher.

The fine spirit in which you have faced and conquered your handicap has been an inspiration to all of us.

Among the thousands of my pupils you have a unique and high place. I am confident that you will have a happy New Year, for I cannot imagine you as otherwise than happy. Cordially

Your fortunate instructor

ARTHUR V. TAYLOR

Last spring, while Joe was taking a post-graduate course at Barringer, it was suggested to him by Mrs. Arthur V. Taylor, Chairman of Braille, that he enroll for the proof readers' course through Miss Hoyt in Washington, so that eventually he would be earning a little money to help him in his educational ambitions. He made a splendid record in this course and his proof reading of *Under the Greenwood Tree* by Thomas Hardy, in four volumes, finally won him his certificate in January. Since then he has corrected *The Girl from Glengarry* by Ralph Connor, in six volumes, and will next proof read *The Runaway Bag* by Albert Payson Terhune and *Lost Horizon* by James Hilton.

"Bonzo" was acquired last summer at the Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey, where each student goes through a very definite course of training, winning the affection and obedience of the dog to become his own. She is beautifully marked and a true friend to Joe, as well as a guardian. They are both well-known in Newark, for now that Joe, at 19, is a freshman at Dana College, they are seen en route regularly each day. Travelling through the busiest part of Newark never bothers either of them. A seeing person may well envy Joe's erect carriage and quick un-



Joseph Melillo and his pal Bonzo

faltering step as Bonzo guides him unerringly to their destination—whether it is a classroom, Red Cross Headquarters, or home.

Since most of his work is prepared at college after classes, Joe's evenings are free. He reads the Braille edition of the *Readers' Digest* every month. He and his brother frequently attend the movies, for some of the Newark theaters are kind enough to extend free passes to the blind and their escorts. Recently Joe began to take music lessons from Miss Louise Curcio, a blind graduate of New Jersey College for Women, and they are both looking forward to playing music that is being put into Braille by Mrs. Paul Smith, vice chairman of Braille in the Newark Chapter. According to Joe: "The days haven't enough hours to please me. There's never a dull moment." And his cheery "O. K." in answer to any favor or request made of him is never begrudging.

Joe's ambition is to become a lawyer, and his college courses at present include English, history, science, government, psychology and philosophy, to be followed by economics, political economy and related subjects, preparatory to a specialized law training. Only a very few of the necessary textbooks are in Braille, therefore most of his studying is done through a "reader." His examinations are taken either orally or written on a typewriter. Difficult, you say, to study under such handicaps? Not at all. Joe's report card, at the end of the first semester, showed five A's and one B!



### Makes Christmas Bags at Age of 90

Mrs. Harry Liggett is still an active producer for the Cameron County, Pennsylvania, Chapter, although she will be ninety years old her next birthday. As Chairman of Production for her Chapter, she sets an example to others by making housewives for the Red Cross Christmas bags which are sent to soldiers and sailors in our outlying possessions, and she takes a leading part in other work.

Mrs. Liggett lives in Emporium, where she arrived in 1859 at the age of 12 years, so she has distinct memories of the Civil War. During the World War, she knit 87 pairs of socks for soldiers in addition to other services. Here is an example and an inspiration!

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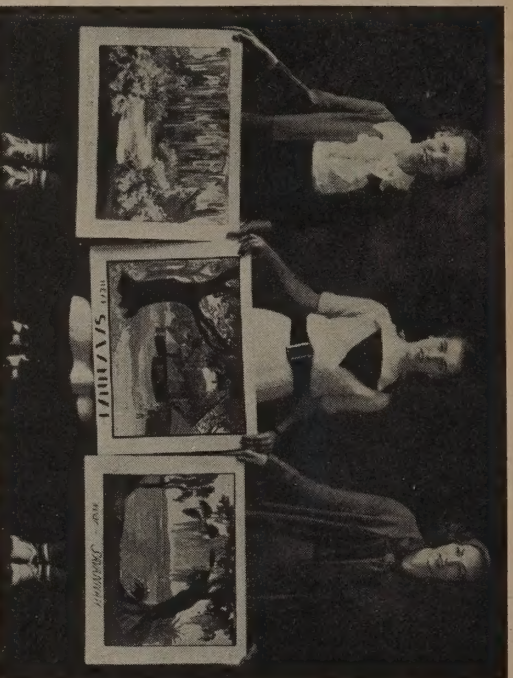
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United States

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present the Department of  
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*Posters from Savannah, Ga., with the artists (left to right)  
—Carolyn Kaufmann, Imogene Aranda and Vivian Freundt  
of the Savannah High School*

## Junior Art for U.S. Hospitals

In the old days, the Red Cross used to receive gifts of posters from touring companies, railways, steamship lines and fashionable resorts, which War Service used for decorating the recreation rooms of Government hospitals where veterans are under treatment. Then came the depression, when

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